

ORIGIN/ACTION

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
AIRGRAM

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO: Department of State
DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR
REVIEWED BY *ECJ* DATE *7 OCT 1987*
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
DEC 23 1968
Can/C

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: December 15, 1968

SUBJECT : INTERNAL SECURITY: Chart of Incidents, November 1968.

REF :

1. Full Constitutional guarantees returned to Guatemala on November 25 when the State of Alert expired. The Minister of Government, Hector MANSILLA Pinto, announced that the President, in consultation with his Council of Ministers, had determined that the conditions requiring emergency powers had ceased. For the last two months the President had been subjected to increasing pressure by politicians of all stripes to allow the emergency conditions to lapse, permitting them to renew political activity proscribed since August. At that time the President had expressed his desire to maintain extraordinary powers until the assassins of Ambassador Mein had been captured. Therefore, [REDACTED] the Minister of Government announced at a press conference that four of seven persons implicated in the slaying had been killed and three others had fled the country. COMMENT: Among the dead, he cited Miss Firk Burgos (who committed suicide in her house on September 8), Mario LEMUS Chavarria, aka "Efigenio" (killed in a gunfight at Jalpatuagua on September 7), Arnulfo Ariel GONZALEZ Sanabria, aka "El Barco" (who allegedly committed suicide on September 10), and "King Kong" (who was killed by police on September 6) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] November was one of the quietest months on record. The attached chart reveals a marked decline in all areas of the country except Guatemala City. The monthly total of incidents was lower only in April of this year. COMMENT: It should

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POL-1:JWilson (in draft)

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be noted that nine of the incidents in Guatemala City were bombings on the night of November 13 (see below); if recorded as one event, November would mark the nadir in politically-motivated violence since the Embassy began its periodic reporting.

3. The low level of violence in the rural areas, especially in the Northeast, is in large measure a reflection of the shocked quiescence of Rightist civilians in the Zacapa region. The civilians feel betrayed not only by the military but by their political allies, the MLN. An American source who travels frequently in the area reports that vigilante leaders fear that security forces will attack them and they pledge to assist the military never again. He noted that one no longer sees civilians carrying arms on the streets of Zacapa although armed comisionados militares are still in evidence in the Department of Izabal. B1
EB

4. November was also a month for continued negotiations and reshuffling within the subversive left. The appearance of a special issue of the FAR bulletin, GUEKRILLERO, stating that YON Sosa had been demoted, led to speculation that there was dissension between Yon and an even more activist group within the FAR. B1
EC

5. In spite of November's relative tranquility and FAR's apparent internal dissension, subversives proved that they still have the capacity to sow terror and conduct operations. The evening of November 13, to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the MR-13, terrorists detonated eight bombs in scattered parts of the city. All the blasts came within a two-hour period revealing a sophisticated use of explosives and careful organization. Targets included the Officers Club (two devices), the British Consulate and a church. Many panes of glass shattered, but no personal injuries and little serious damage to structures resulted.

6. A FAR-financing raid on the Coca Cola plant netting between Q3-Q10,000 provided further evidence of continued guerrilla activity.

Several other spectacular daylight robberies during the month also bore the earmarks of the FAR--well-dressed youths brandishing automatics hit a downtown theater for Q2,000 and held up a Public Roads cashier (Q1,800). B1
EC

7. There have been additional reports that guerrillas plan to attack the "American presence" B1
EC Only one attack occurred in November. On the 22nd a bullet glanced off a US Military Group vehicle occupied by a Guatemalan chauffeur and guard. Ominously, the vehicle had been recently repainted an "inconspicuous" color, carried regular plates, and was not on a normal route. To protect the Ambassador, Guatemalans have laid on heavy security precautions. The Minister of Government made clear that "the measures were taken by the GOG even though the Ambassador had not solicited such protection."

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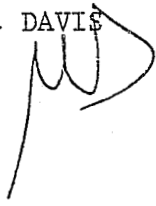
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8. In the rural areas, outlaw bands continue to plague security forces. A recent example is the appearance of a 30- to 60-man band in the Nueva Concepcion area of the South Coast. The report is especially distressing since just six months ago army troops conducted a large "search-and-clear" operation at Nueva Concepcion and declared that the bandits had been completely "liquidated."

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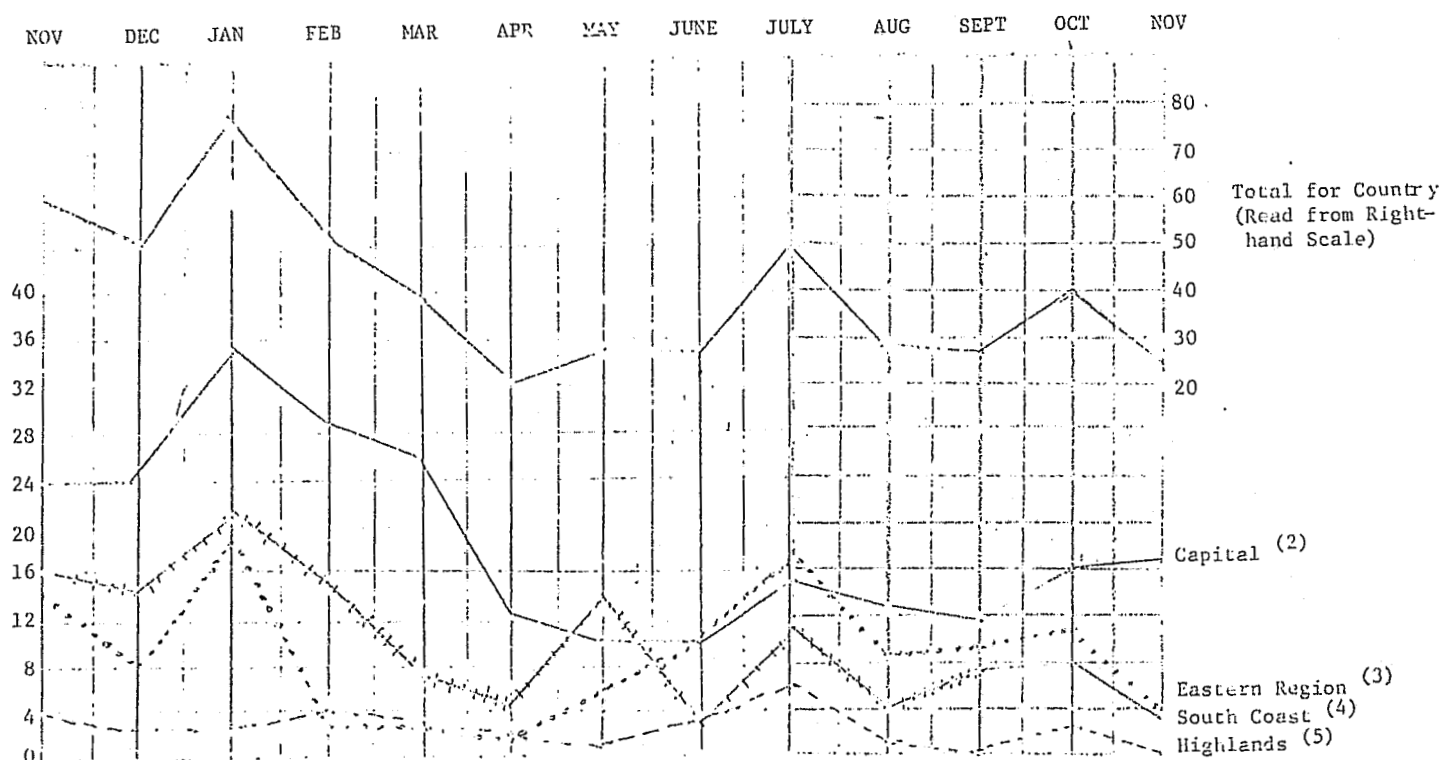
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MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF TERRORIST RELATED INCIDENTS BY REGION
NOVEMBER 1967 - NOVEMBER 1968

ENCLOSURE TA A - 669
FROM GUATEMALA



- For purposes of this graph both acts of violence, such as shootings, bombings, etc., and assassinated bodies found are counted as incidents.
- Capital Area includes Departments: Sacatepequez, Guatemala.
- Eastern Region includes Departments: Jutiapa, Jalapa, El Progreso, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal.
- South Coast includes Departments: San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa.
- Highlands includes Departments: Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz, Solola.

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